

ALABAMA BOARD OF HOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

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MINUTES

Board Meeting

June 4, 2019

The Alabama Board of Home Medical Equipment met on Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery to conduct Board business. Board members in attendance were Ms. Lisa Wells (Board Chair), Mr. Andy Alvarez (member), Mr. Jason Jones (member), Mr. Robert Beard (member), Mr. Kent Crenshaw (member), Dr. Randall Lee Murphy Jr. and Mr. Vernon Johnson (member). Board members not in attendance were Mr. Don Jones (member) and Mr. Bruce Ovitt (member). Others present were Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator), Mr. Cameron McEwen (General Counsel), Ms. Jennifer Love (Legal Assistant), Mr. Mike James (Board Investigator) and Ms. Renee' Reames (serving as recording secretary).

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Ms. Wells, Board Chair, and a quorum was present. Public notice of this rescheduled meeting was advertised on the Board's web site at www.homemed.alabama.gov and published on the Secretary of State's web site at www.sos.alabama.gov, in accordance with the requirements of the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Chairperson Wells presented the minutes from the February 28, 2019 Board meeting for the Board's approval. A copy of the minutes was provided to the members prior to the meeting. The Board discussed the starting time of the February meeting and Mr. Beard made a motion to accept the February minutes with the amended starting time of 1:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Alvarez and unanimously approved by the Board, with none voting "nay." (Minutes available for viewing in the Board's Official Book of Minutes and on the Board's website).

Chairperson Wells presented the Board Chairperson Report. She commented on the CMS/Medicare competitive bid process and geographical service areas. She explained that only companies licensed to sell durable medical equipment can bid on the rates of service.

The Board discussed adding a Frequently Asked Questions section to the Board's website and Chairperson Wells reminded the members that the approved Board meeting minutes were posted on the Board's website.

Mr. McEwen presented the Legal Counsel Report. He commended further about licensure of companies that sell durable medical equipment and exemptions for licensure. He recommended to the Board that official letters of Exemption for licensing not be issued by the Board, to prevent further misinterpretation as it related to other rules, reimbursement eligibility by other third parties, etc., and that individual Board members serve on the investigative committee to assist in technical area. Mr. J. Jones made the motion that official exemptions letters not be issued from the Board and that individual Board members be assigned to assist the investigative committee in technical areas. The motion was seconded by Dr. Murphy and unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. McEwen recommended that he monitor the various types of licensure questions he receives and have one or more Board member assigned to the investigative committee on a case by case basis. The Board agreed to continue discussions, as needed, on this matter.

Ms. Childers presented the Executive Director Report, which included financial activities by the Board for the period ending April 30, 2019. Also reported were the total number of active licensees and the number of inspections conducted during FY 2019, along with number of complaints received (report available for viewing in the Board's Official Book of Minutes).

Mr. J. Jones made the motion to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mr. Beard and unanimously approved by the Board, with none voting "nay."

Ms. Childers presented the Administrator's Report on activities performed by staff since the last Board meeting, along with a list of new licenses and companies inspected.

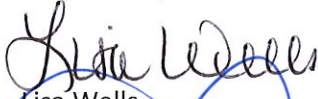
Mr. Beard updated the Board on ADMEA's annual meeting scheduled in July and general items to be on the meeting agenda.

Ms. Childers reported that the Administrative Services Contract was due for annual renewal. Mr. Alvarez made a motion to renew the Administrative Services Contract with Warren & Company, Inc., for one year, with no changes in services and fees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Beard and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairperson Wells announced the next meeting date of the Board was scheduled Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business and Chairperson Wells adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Wells

Chair



Keith E. Warren

Executive Director

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